

Timely Tidbits ...

Household Hazardous Waste Collection

Wayne County's Department of Environment will host a Household Hazardous Waste Collection for County residents from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, March 15, at the Downriver Community Conference office (located at 15100 Northline Road, east of I-75, in Southgate).

Items that will be accepted include household paints, stains, cleaners, lawn and garden chemicals, anti-freeze, mercury thermometers, and electronics. For more information, call 734-326-3936.

Deadline Nears for School Board Election

Citizens who would like to run for one of two Romulus Community Schools Board of Education seats in the May 6, 2008 election *must* register by Wednesday, February 13, to have their names on the ballot.

To file, a candidate can pay a \$100 fee or submit 40 registered-voters' signatures to the Romulus City Clerk's Office by the deadline.

The seats are currently held by Board vice-president Betty Lenossi and secretary Thomas Kuderik.

Although Election Clerk Rendell Wooden confirmed that no one had actually filed for candidacy as of January 22, incumbent Kuderik has announced his intention to seek election, as has challenger Danielle Funderburg, who will be throwing her hat in the ring for the third consecutive year. Lenossi said she has not yet decided if she will run again.

Say Thanks in January

Superintendent Carl Weiss of the Romulus Community Schools is encouraging everyone to take a moment and say "thanks" to District Board of Education members during School Board Recognition Month.

"Board members play a vital role in the education process," said Weiss. "They should be commended for their leadership and their commitment to the children of Romulus."

Current members are Ken Mientkiewicz, Betty Lenossi, Cheryl Buckley, Tom Kuderik, Celeste Roscoe, April Frayer, and Sandy Crout. □

Mayor Lambert Calls Romulus "Strong, Yet Challenged"; Vows To Continue Fight for Casino, Other Developments



Romulus Mayor Alan R. Lambert

Mayor Alan R. Lambert's annual "State of the City" Address – delivered on January 15 at the Romulus Chamber of Commerce's monthly luncheon – acknowledged that Romulus faced many hardships in 2007. Still, Lambert believes that cooperative efforts on the part of elected officials, business leaders, and residents have kept the community relatively stable at a time when neighboring municipalities are floundering.

"In Romulus, our financial condition remains strong, and we have ended the year with a sizable fund balance," he stated. "We have faced the challenge of tightening our financial belts while providing the same or improved levels of services to our residents. Most importantly, we have done this with no layoffs of City employees."

"While cities across Michigan are being forced to lay off employees, including police officers and firefighters, we have all

pitched in to preserve our workforce – a credit to each and every City employee."

Although many residents have endured home foreclosures, job layoffs, and other hardships, Lambert is convinced that Romulus as a whole is poised to play a key role in a changing future economy. The City's proximity to Metro Airport should prove to be a boon, he says, as Romulus continues to work with Wayne County and nearby communities on the so-called Aerotropolis concept, which would bring shipping, office, entertainment, and other development to the Metro/Willow Run Airport corridor.

And, although a recent US Department of the Interior ruling denied the Hannahville Indian Community's proposed casino development in Romulus, Lambert says that the fight is far from over. Tribal attorneys are already investigating options for reconsideration or even legal appeal. Fur-

ther, Lambert himself will be traveling to Washington, D.C., in the coming weeks to lobby on behalf of the casino project.

The Mayor also pointed to local-level efforts – like the downtown facade enhancement program and the demolition of 250+ unsafe/abandoned buildings – that should improve the City's image and make it more appealing to developers.

Finally, Lambert noted with particular pride the beautiful new Romulus Senior Center and Romulus Athletic Center – both of which were constructed without raising taxes, and which offer amenities to improve the community's overall quality of life.

"When the going gets tough, the tough get going," said Lambert, "and that's what my administration has done ..."

"We can lead the way to a new tomorrow ... by continuing our work as partners in progress together." □

Other Towns To Review Taylor's Master Plan

City of Taylor officials are accepting input from surrounding communities regarding the City's proposed new Master Plan, which is nearing approval.

The City is distributing copies of a draft of the plan to surrounding municipalities, in accordance with Section 7(b) of the Municipal Planning Act (Public Act 285 of 1983, as amended).

According to PA 285, before a municipality adopts a new master plan or update, it must send a draft of the proposal to all contiguous local governments. In this case, the draft will be sent to Wayne County as well as the planning commissions in Brownstown and Huron townships and the cities of Allen Park, Dearborn Heights, Romulus, Southgate, and Westland. A copy also will be sent to SEMCOG, the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments. Municipalities and agencies will have 63 days to review the plan and submit written comments to the City of Taylor and Wayne County. Comments for Taylor should be sent to:

Master Plan Steering Committee
Attn: Megan Etue
23555 Goddard Road
Taylor, MI 48180

Comments can be sent electronically, via e-mail, to metue@ci.taylor.mi.us.

Others interested in viewing the draft can find it on the City of Taylor Web site, <http://www.cityoftaylor.com/>, under the "Departments" and "Economic & Development Services" links.

According to Frederick Zorn Jr., executive director of the City of Taylor Department of Housing and Neighborhood Development Services, Taylor's Master Plan process began when the City retained LSL, a consulting firm, and held three neighborhood meetings in January and February 2007. At the meetings, LSL representatives discussed the value of a master plan and how it is used to guide a community's growth. Participants identified several priorities: parks/recreation; improved quality of development (retail, restaurant, and entertainment); and improved neighborhoods.

In June, the City and LSL held two additional public open houses – one during Masco's Art in the Park Fest at Heritage Park; the other at the William Ford Senior Center. An open house for all stakeholders followed in November at Taylor City Hall.

Taylor's master plan was last revised in 1989.

Zorn said City officials use a master plan as a guide in making land-use, development, zoning, and capital-improvement decisions. Such plans identify and examine a wide range of physical issues, including population, housing, land use, transportation, neighborhoods, community facilities, and natural resources. Ultimately, Taylor's plan will identify a series of goals and policies for the City.

For more information, visit the City Web site (<http://www.cityoftaylor.com/>) or call the City at 734-374-1376. □

Job Fair at Rec Center

Rink Management Services, operator of the new Romulus Athletic Center at 35765 Northline, will host a job fair on January 25 (6 to 7 p.m. for Romulus residents; 7 to 9 p.m. for the general public) and January 26 (10 a.m. to noon for residents; 12 to 3 p.m. for the general public).

Applicants for fitness specialist, personal trainer, dance instructor, climbing wall attendant, lifeguard, certified American Red Cross-trained aquatic staff, operations, supervisor, front-desk staff, and custodian positions should be prepared to fill out forms, provide photo ID, approve a background check, and undergo an on-the-spot interview. □

Letters to the Editor

Editor's note: All letters to the editor MUST contain the writer's signature and a telephone number where he/she can be reached in order to verify the letter's authenticity.

Names will be withheld by request only in exceptional cases where, in our opinion, there is a legitimate reason to do so. All letters requesting anonymity will be treated confidentially, regardless of whether or not they are printed.

The little paper reserves the right to edit all letters for clarity and, if necessary, brevity.

As always, opinions expressed in "Letters to the Editor" are not necessarily shared by the staff of the little paper.

Crout: I Work for the People

To the Editor:

This is my reply to Mr. Todd Hauter's letter, which appeared in the January 11, 2008 issue of the *little paper*. I would like to explain why I am against the purchase of laptop computers for the Romulus City Council at this time.

Our clerk, Linda Choate, has stated that our council's current paper-based information packets cost the taxpayers of Romulus about \$1.59 per packet. For seven packets (one per council member), that's \$11.13 per meeting. Given 36 meetings (three each month), that's \$400.68 per year. Even adding an annual delivery cost of \$132 brings the total to just \$532.68.

A switch to laptop computers and electronic packets, on the other hand, would cost the taxpayers about \$20,000 initially. Then, about every three years, the laptops would have to be replaced. Estimating about \$9,000 over three years is \$3,000 per year in equipment expenses – and that doesn't include annual operating costs.

I care about our residents and I care about how their tax dollars are spent. I think the taxpayers can do the math and see which method is cheaper. I believe that, after residents see the cost comparison, they would vote for the paper packets.

Mr. Hauter, there are many cities of all sizes that do not use electronic packets. They include Taylor, Canton, Van Buren Township, Huron Township, and Wayne. The Romulus Community Schools' budget is larger than the City budget, yet, they use paper packets, too.

I will not vote "yes" on something that doesn't benefit the taxpayers of Romulus.

Mr. Hauter, if you drive through our subdivisions and down our streets, you will see many foreclosed homes as well as many empty homes for sale. People have lost their jobs. People are leaving the City because they can't afford the high property taxes here. At a time when people are straining their budgets to make ends meet, why should the City make an unnecessary purchase?

Mr. Hauter, I believe I know who puts you up to writing these letters. Every time a Romulus City Councilperson doesn't back the Administration, you put a letter in the paper. When Mr. Charles Miller was on the Council, you wrote letters about him for the same reason. You also wrote letters about Mrs. Debbie Romak when she was on the Council and when she ran for Mayor.

Mr. Hauter, I don't work for the Administration; I work for the people. And, that's one thing I won't forget.

Mr. Hauter, while I was in the Marines, I learned pride, honor, and never to quit. I don't intend to resign. Only the voters determine if I stay an elected official.

Sincerely,

Harry Crout, Councilman
City of Romulus

Reader Answers Hauter

To the Editor:

I would like to be the reader to answer Todd Hauter's question regarding why the City of Romulus pays Councilman Harry Crout. [See *the little paper*, January 11, 2008.] He is an elected official, which means he was elected by the people for this paid position. The Council cannot remove council members; only the residents have that power.

[Regarding Mr. Hauter's statements about the reason for Councilman Crout's opposition to electronic information packets] Let me explain: Reading a monitor is the same as reading a piece of paper; they're both written in English. Councilman Crout opposed the purchase of laptops due to the high cost.

[Regarding Mr. Hauter's statements about why businesses may be reluctant to open in Romulus] I think one of the first things that a businessman looks at when establishing his company is cost and profit. The fact that we have a higher overall property tax millage than surrounding areas makes it difficult. Don't blame taxes on Councilman Crout; he's repeatedly said he'd like to see taxes lowered.

Councilman Crout believes that we have highly educated and experienced residents in Romulus. It's Mayor Alan Lambert who believes he must look outside the City to find qualified people for department heads and assistants.

[Regarding Mr. Hauter's statement about other Council members] Don't accuse Councilman Crout of making his colleagues look like fools. They are each responsible for their own votes. When Councilman Crout stated they should not sign a proposed gas contract at \$1.09/ccft because it did not go out for bid, no one listened, and the contract was approved. Last year, DTE's price was \$.75/ccft, and this winter

it is down to \$.705/ccft. Councilman Crout also upset the Mayor when he voted "no" on the 20% raises to department heads and assistants, and let the residents know why he voted "no."

I'm glad we have someone on the Council who respects the working and middle-class residents of Romulus. Keep up the good work, Councilman Crout.

Sincerely,

Richard Covert
Romulus

APA Says "Thanks"

To the Editor:

On December 14, 2007, American Progressive Association members served Christmas dinner to 150 local residents.

I want to thank Romulus City Councilman Harry Crout and Romulus Community Schools Board of Education member Sandy Crout for their help planning the dinner and for volunteering their time to serve the dinner. They're always helping in the community whenever there's a need.

I also want to thank the following people who donated their time: Marie Butler, Annie Hendrix, Della Hendricks, Else

Trivedi, Brenda Alexander, Lloyd Coleman, Betsy Butler, and Nancy Moore.

Join us at our APA meetings, which are held on the second Tuesday of every month at 6 p.m. at the Coleman Center on Beverly Road.

Sincerely,

Bronson Bell, APA president
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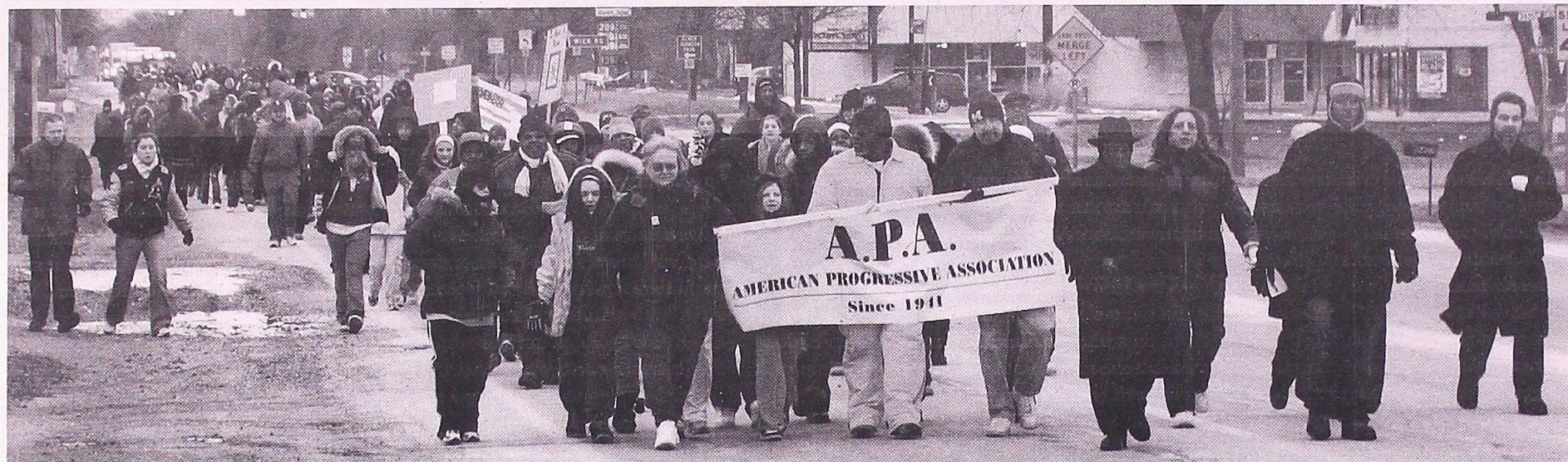
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Annual Celebration of Dr. King's Life and Work Draws Big Crowds



Hundreds of people joined in the annual "MLK Day" community march to demonstrate their belief in the values of equality, brotherhood, and service.

The Romulus community's annual celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Day on January 21 was another big success thanks to the hard work of its organizers and the participation of hundreds of citizens.

The day began at 8 a.m. with a ceremonial march along Wayne Road from Cory Elementary to Romulus High School.

Afterward, marchers and other celebrants warmed up with a complimentary community breakfast served at RHS.

At 10 a.m., the crowd moved to the RHS auditorium for a commemorative pro-

gram that began with remarks from Senator Raymond Basham, Representative Hoon-Yung Hopgood, Wayne County CEO Robert Ficano, Romulus Mayor Alan Lambert, and Romulus Community Schools Superintendent Carl Weiss, as well as local clergymen like Reverend Arthur Willis (pastor, Pentecostal Baptist Church) and David Holt (pastor, Ball Road Tabernacle).

Entertainment in the form of inspirational songs, poetry, dance, and skits – performed by Romulus students of all ages and other community members – followed.

Among the many highlights of the program was its keynote speaker, the Reverend Dr. Jesse L. Douglas, Sr., who brought history to life for his listeners as he discussed his experiences in the Civil Rights Movement. The lifelong spiritual leader and community activist's background includes the instigation of a successful lawsuit against the State of Georgia, which led to the desegregation of dining facilities in the state capital, and travel to worldwide destinations such as Africa, the Caribbean and South Sea islands, and Korea. □



The commemorative program's guest speaker, the Reverend Dr. Jesse L. Douglas, Sr. (pictured above, on Dr. King's left arm), brought history to life as he talked of turbulent times.

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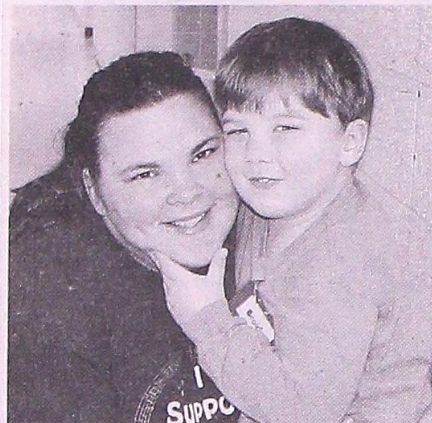
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Band Boosters' Fund-raiser Brought Music to Many



When the Romulus Band Boosters' "Win the Band" raffle gave the winning ticket holder, Tracy Thompson, a chance to have the Romulus High School Marching Band perform at the venue of her choice, she saw it as a wonderful opportunity to share the gift of music with youngsters in the community. Thompson arranged to have band members play for Romulus Head Start students (including her son Braiden) on December 20, and they entertained everyone with a selection of holiday songs.

Metro Airport Police Sergeant Will Compete on National Reality TV Show

Wayne County Airport Authority (WCAA) Police Sergeant Clayton Monte will soon appear on television screens across the nation as a contestant on Spike TV's competition-based reality show called *Pros vs. Joes 3: Last Joe Standing*. The Detroit-area native is one of 64 contestants from across North America who will be given the chance to take on some of the sporting world's toughest professional athletes.

Now entering its third season, the Spike TV program gives average "Joes" the opportunity to go head-to-head against sports "Pros" for the chance to beat them at their own game. The new season premiered with a special episode on January 23 and resumed its regular time slot (Thursdays at 11p.m.) on January 24.

Monte, 36, is no stranger to athletic competition. A graduate of Livonia Stevenson High School, he earned a varsity letter in wrestling, and has since been an active

member of several area softball and fast-pitch baseball teams. In 2004, Monte attended the weeklong Detroit Tigers Fantasy Camp at Joker Marchant Stadium in Lakeland, Florida. He is also one of two goalies for the WCAA Police Department hockey team.

Monte is an 11-year veteran of the Airport Police Department. He lives in Redford with his wife and three daughters: Sarah, 8; Gabriella, 7; and Mia Linda, 11 months. Monte credits his family as his inspiration and driving force to win.

As for what possessed him to compete for a spot to go head-to-head with top athletes on national television, Monte cited his inability to turn down a dare: "After watching the show for the last two seasons – and always saying, 'I could do that' – my family and friends dared me to fill out the application and try out. So, I did ... and I never looked back." □

Local Chambers Host "After 5" Mini Expo



An "After 5" Mini Expo – jointly sponsored by the Belleville and Romulus chambers of commerce – featured displays and information about products and services offered by members and other local business people. Those who attended the event enjoyed complimentary hors d'oeuvres as well as a chance to check out the new Romulus Athletic Center. For more information about the next event, watch for updates at www.romuluschamber.org or www.bellevillech.org.

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Barth Students Spread Holiday Cheer to US Soldiers in Fallujah, Iraq



Barth Elementary students like (from left) Zach Taylor, Michael Ramsey, Jack Luciw, and Blaine Montgomery collected "wish list" items and packed more than 250 "goody bags" for US soldiers in Iraq.

A joint effort by the Student Council Service Team and Julie Flinkman's first-grade class at Barth Elementary provided a very merry Christmas for US Navy troops serving in Fallujah, Iraq.

The students first got the idea for their special holiday project after hearing a letter from Flinkman's husband, Lieutenant Jason Flinkman, who is currently serving his third tour in Iraq.

"In one of the many letters that my

husband has written to my class, he shared his concern that several members of his platoon were not receiving any mail or care packages from their families," said Flinkman. "My students became quite alarmed about the lack of support for the servicemen. They suggested that the school adopt these soldiers for the holidays."

As part of the "adoption" process, Student Council members joined together with the first-graders to collect "wish list" items



Lieutenant Jason Flinkman (left) and his platoon buddies were happy to receive the students' care packages, which they shared with some of the children in Fallujah.

like beef jerky, playing cards, puzzles, peanuts, candy, and chewing gum in hopes of filling about 50 goody bags for the soldiers. Their efforts were so successful that, after only a week of making their collections, it was becoming difficult to walk through Flinkman's classroom!

The Student Council came down to help save the day. Altogether, the students packed over 250 goody bags for the members of Lieutenant Flinkman's platoon. They

had so many extra bags that the soldiers were able to pass out goodies to many of the children in Fallujah!

After they returned from their Christmas break, the students who worked on the project received pictures from the platoon as well as letters of thanks from several of the servicemen.

For more information about supporting our troops, or to adopt a soldier, log onto www.adoptraussoldier.org. □

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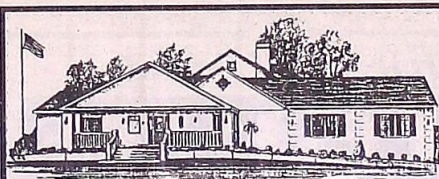
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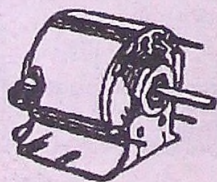
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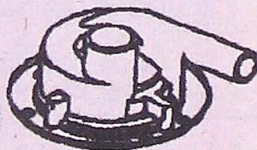
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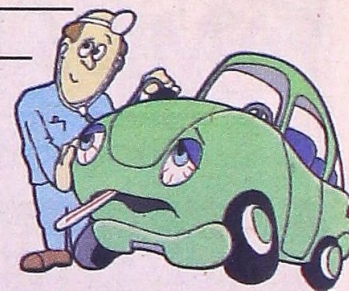
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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 21 - 6:30 P.M.

Taylor Meadows Golf Club, 25360 Ecorse Road

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Event is Free of Charge - Light Refreshments Served

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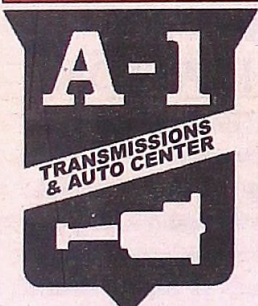
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Alice Production Features Area Youths



Playing featured roles are Cece DeBoever (Alice), Sarah Anderson (Mad Hatter), Jacob Partrich (Cheshire Cat), and Molly Sute (White Rabbit).

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Members of the Taylor Youth Theater will present *Alice in Wonderland Jr.* at the Sheridan Community Center (located at 12111 Pardee Road).

The young performers, ages 6 to 13, will take the stage at 7:30 p.m. on February 1, 2, 8, and 9, and at 3 p.m. on February 10.

The production, sponsored by the Taylor Parks and Recreation Department, is based on the 1951 Disney film *Alice in Won-*

derland and the novels *The Adventures of Alice in Wonderland* and *Through the Looking Glass* by Lewis Carroll.

The shortened musical features familiar Disney songs that have entertained generation after generation, including "I'm Late," "The Unbirthday Song," and "Zip-A-Dee-Doo-Dah."

"It really is a show for all ages," said director Debbie Aue, who is assisted by her

continued on page 8



Here, Alice is among colorful flowers and weeds (Sarah Anderson, Sydnee Begley, Lia Bertucci, Cierra Blair, Hannah Burger, Emily Collins, Emma Fink, Alexandra Gates, Debbie Hansen, Caitlin Keif, Stephanie Merengere, and Kayla Wood).

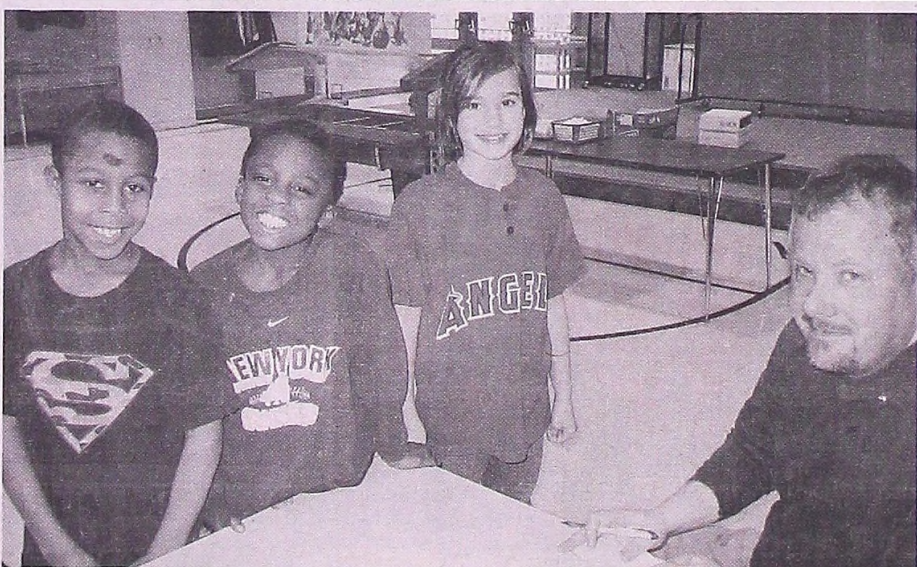
Romulus Schools Roundup



Saturday, January 26, at 1 p.m. (Other upcoming meets include the Southgate Invitational on February 2 and MEGA Invitational on February 6.)



More than 80 students from grades three through six enrolled in an after-school math-tutoring and science-enrichment program at Romulus Elementary. Students completing the eight-week program (and proudly displaying their certificates of achievement) included: (from left) Miles Dyson, Marvin Jackson, Austin Camarada, Dunkin Vaughn, Shane Jackson, Quazon Frazier, Alex Marciniak, Ken Green, Jada Velz, George Stewart, and Erik Minor.



The Romulus Rotary Club recently donated a new dictionary to each third-grader at Cory Elementary. Here, Rotary representative Reverend Mark Miller (right) presented dictionaries to some of Debra Roberts's students: (from left) Imani Kirk, Vander Crosby, and McKayla Coplen.

Alice Production Features Area Youths

continued from page 7

daughter, Kayla Aue. Choreography and costumes are by Dione Carrico and Roseann Sponiak, respectively.

Thirty-eight children are members of the cast. Alice is played by three girls: Cece DeBoever of Dearborn, Halee Dorn of Brownstown, and Katie Martinez of Taylor.

Additional Taylor youngsters in the play are Kristin Anderson, Selena Angel, Sydnee Begley, Hannah Berger, Cierra Blair, Emily Collins, Cora Foster, Anna Hansen, Debbie Hansen, Andreas Hutter, Christian Hutter, Katie Hutter, Sabrina Ortiz, Jacob Partrich, Avery Shingler, Kayla Wood, Robert Yandura, and Russell Yandura.

Brownstown's other performers are Samantha Dorn, Alexandra Gates, Kourtney Gates, Katelyn Philpot, and Molly Sute.

Also among the young actors who appear are Bethany Fink and Emma Fink of Allen Park; Sarah Anderson, Grace Bertucci, and Lia Bertucci of Dearborn; Connor Roy of Flat Rock; Katherine O'Donnell of Livonia; Christian Alvarado of Plymouth; Caitlin Keif and Stephanie Merengere of Southgate; Rachele Cates of Woodhaven; and Clare Albright of Wyandotte.

Music and lyrics are by Sammy Fain, Bob Hilliard, Oliver Wallace, Cy Coban, Allie Wrubel, Ray Gilbert, Mark David, Al Hoffman, and Jerry Livingston. Additional music and lyrics are by Brian Louiselle and David Simpatico.

Tickets are \$6 for students and senior citizens; \$8 for everyone else. Groups of 20 or more get a discounted rate of \$5 per person.

For tickets, call the Taylor Parks and Recreation Department (734-374-3906) from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays. Evenings and weekends, call 313-295-6007. □

Romulus Twins Continue Academic Success

Congratulations to Grand Valley State University freshmen Jessica and Jennifer Dick, whose first-semester GPA of 4.0 earned them a spot on the Dean's List. The Romulus High School co-valedictorians (Class of 2007) are the daughters of Ron and Debbie Dick of Romulus. □

ROMULUS COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

36540 Grant Road, Romulus, Michigan 48174

ANNUAL ASBESTOS NOTIFICATION

In accordance with Section 763.84 of the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA), or the "Asbestos in Schools Rule," Romulus Community Schools is notifying employees and building occupants, or their legal guardians, of activities conducted within the past school year involving the asbestos inspections, response actions, and post-response action activities, including periodic reinspection and periodic surveillance activities, that are planned or in progress at School District facilities.

During the upcoming School Year (the "2007-2008 School Year" - September 2007 through August 2008), Romulus Community Schools has planned the following activities related to asbestos-containing materials throughout the School District:

- **Six-month Periodic Surveillances:** Six-month periodic surveillances will be completed every six months and continue on a regular six-month schedule (next scheduled round: approximately May 2008).
- **Three-year Reinspections:** The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) requires that each school district reinspect all known and assumed asbestos-containing materials once every three years. The three-year reinspection activities for all Romulus Community Schools' facilities were completed in October 2004. The next three-year reinspection is therefore due this November.
- **Asbestos Abatement Projects - Scheduled:** As of the beginning of the School Year, there are no asbestos abatement projects scheduled.

During the previous twelve months (the "2006-2007 School Year" - September 2006 through August 2007), Romulus Community Schools completed the following activities related to asbestos-containing materials throughout the School District:

- **Six-month Periodic Surveillances:** Six-month periodic surveillance activities were completed in November 2006 and May 2007.
- **Asbestos Abatement Projects - Completed:** No asbestos abatement projects were conducted during the 2006-2007 School Year.

AHERA Management Plans are available for review in each school building office or at the Administration Building (36540 Grant Road, Romulus, Michigan). Summaries for all of the asbestos abatement projects conducted prior to the 2006-2007 School Year are located in the AHERA Management Plans, while complete documentation is maintained in the Administration Building.

Questions regarding the asbestos program for Romulus Community Schools may be addressed to Mr. Jeff Heydanek, healthAIR, inc., at 248-426-0165 between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Score Big with Your Super Bowl Party

Super Bowl Sunday is just around the corner. Perhaps this year you want to open up your home and host a party in honor of the big game.

The Super Bowl is one of the most-watched televised programs each year. Football fans and non-fans alike gather in homes across the country to watch the action play out on the field or comment on the best commercials that are unveiled. Apart from tasty snacks and beverages, there isn't much needed to host a winning football gathering – but, if you want to make it extra-special, consider these football-friendly ideas.

- **Upgrade your TV** – If you've been thinking about updating your television to a newer model, now may be the time. Often, stores discount products after the holidays, so good deals may still be available. Other retailers offer discounts particularly for Super Bowl Sunday, so keep an eye out for advertised specials.
- **Create your own "stadium seating"** – The object of setting up seating is to maximize the opportunity for unobstructed views of the game. While your living room or recreation room probably isn't equipped with tiered home-theater seating, you can mimic the effect. In the back "row," consider lifting the sofa up a couple of inches by placing sturdy pieces of wood or other materials under the feet. Folding chairs can form another row directly in front. Reserve shorter seating (e.g., low-profile beach or deck chairs, beanbag chairs, etc.) for the front. Set up pillows and other floor-based seating for younger fans.
- **Think about food options** – Food should be portable and easy to enjoy while cheering along. This makes finger foods particularly attractive for these types of events. You can serve just about anything – just make it bite-sized. For example, in lieu of regular-sized pizza and calzones, consider pizza bagels or English-muffin pizzas paired with minicalzones made with refrigerated biscuit dough. (You can even make them in the

shape of footballs if you're feeling creative). Rather than messy hot wings and chicken legs, which leave bones to clean up, flavor breaded chicken tenders with hot sauce and other spicy seasonings. Serve the bulk of the food during a time when the action is on hiatus, such as halftime. For those who like to munch throughout the game, keep plenty of snack foods on hand. Bowls of pretzels, trail mix, peanuts, and the like will keep everyone satisfied.

- **Set up a beverage station** – Put drinks close to the action. Fill a cooler with plenty of ice, and pack it with cans of soft drinks and beer, if desired. Or, set up soda bottles on a table, buffet-style, with cups and ice nearby.
- **Have activities for non-fans, as well** – Remember that some spouses or other guests, who may not be the biggest football fans, will be sharing Super Bowl Sunday with you. Games and trivia can be fun for all. For example, prior to the party, cut out the logo of well-recognized brands and paste them to index cards. Quiz guests on how many they can answer correctly, and have gag items (such as foam footballs) for prizes. For an all-day event, schedule a fun game of touch football prior to the start of the televised game (weather permitting).
- **Be responsible** – While drinking and watching the game often go hand-in-hand, make sure you are a responsible host or hostess, and never let guests leave while under the influence. Limit alcohol consumption to the first half of the game. Afterward, serve desserts and coffee to keep guests around longer so you can monitor their sobriety. □

HELP WANTED for NEW SALON

Looking for a licensed stylist, barber, braiders, nail technician, and esthetician for a new salon opening at 9223 Wayne Road in Romulus.

Call 734-444-9120

Hopgood Supports Bulk-purchasing Bill

State Representative Hoon-Yung Hopgood (D-Taylor) recently voted for a plan that would allow small businesses to participate in the State's bulk-purchasing program – a move that he believes will cut their costs and create jobs for Michigan workers.

"This plan will help small businesses achieve significant savings and increase their buying power," Hopgood said. "Small businesses contribute a great deal to our community by providing jobs for our workers and services for our residents. By participating in the bulk-purchasing plan, small-business owners will be able to invest more in their businesses, which will help them grow."

The plan that passed the House on

January 16 would allow small businesses to participate in program that's administered through the Department of Management and Budget (DMB).

Small businesses are defined as ones that are independently owned and operated, employ fewer than 30 employees, and have gross annual sales of less than \$1 million. Neither small businesses nor vendors would be required to participate in the program. Businesses would pay a small fee to participate.

"As we work to get Michigan back on track, it's important that we support small businesses, which make up the backbone of our local business community. I urge my colleagues in the Senate to act quickly to pass this plan." □

Community Calendar

- **"Polar Science Adventure"** – The Romulus Public Library (located at 11121 Wayne Road) will join the Ann Arbor Exhibit Museum of Natural History and University of Michigan science students to present a free Family Reading/Science series aimed at kids ages 6 to 11. The hands-on programs will include: *Ice Worlds: Why Are the Poles So Cold?* (Monday, January 28th, at 6 p.m.), *Frosty Life: Surviving the Poles* (Monday, February 25, at 6 p.m.), and *Melting Away: Protecting the Poles* (Monday, March 31, at 6 p.m.). For more information on these family-friendly programs, call 734-942-7589.
- **Scrapbooking Class** – A one-night scrapbooking class will be held on Tuesday, February 5, from 6 to 8:30 p.m., at the Heritage Park Petting Farm (corner of Pardee and Northline roads, Taylor). Participants will receive a Creative Memories paper album kit (includes album and accents) and instruction on creating a gift album. (No cutting required.) Participants should bring 15 to 20 photos to use in the scrapbook. Cost is \$25 for two people (ages 10 and up); additional kits will be available for \$20 each. For more info, call the Petting Farm (734-374-5946).
- **Daddy/Daughter Date Night** – Brownstown's Daddy/Daughter Date Night – to be held at the Community Center on Friday, February 8, from 6 to 7:15 p.m. (Session I) and 7:45 to 9 p.m. (Session II) – will feature music, dancing, punch and cookies, and a beautiful corsage for Daughter, as well as a special gift for Dad. Girls ages 3 and up (accompanied by an adult) are welcome. Cost is \$15 per couple, plus \$3 for each additional daughter. Space is limited.
- **Daddy/Daughter Dance** – Taylor's annual Daddy/Daughter Dance will be held at the Ford Senior Center (located at 6750 Troy) on Saturday, February 9, from 4 to 6 p.m. (Session I) and 7 to 9 p.m. (Session II). Fathers and daughters in grades K–6 will enjoy music, dancing, hors d'oeuvres and beverages, souvenir photos, and door prizes; daughters will receive a corsage. Cost is \$20 per couple, plus \$5 for each additional daughter. Tickets are available at the Parks and Recreation Office. No tickets will be sold at the door. No refunds will be given.
- **Roast Beef Dinner at CUMC** – Community United Methodist Church (located at 11160 Olive, corner of Bibbins, in Romulus) will host a Roast Beef Dinner fundraiser on Saturday, February 9, from 5 to 7 p.m. Suggested donation is \$8 for adults and \$4 for children ages 6 to 12; children 5 and under get in free. For carry-out orders, call 734-941-0736.
- **Bowling Night** – The Greater Romulus Chamber of Commerce will hold its 3rd Annual Bowling Night fund-raiser at Romulus Lanes (37452 Huron River Drive) on Saturday, February 9, at 11:30 p.m. Tickets – \$40 per couple (\$20 per person) – include three games of 9-pin No-tap, first- and second-game "mystery," pizza, and door prizes. Cash bar will be available. For info or tickets, call 734-893-0694 or e-mail info@romuluschamber.com.
- **Food Bank Opens** – Community United Methodist Church (11160 Olive in downtown Romulus) will open its food bank to Romulus residents *only* on Tuesday, February 12, from 10 a.m. to noon. Those who wish to take advantage of the service must be a Medicare subscriber or Medicaid recipient, or have a Bridge card, and be able to show proof of income. For more info, call Kathy (734-941-0736).
- **Comedy Night** – The Romulus Band Boosters have joined forces with the Metropolitan Hotel of Romulus and Project 2 Improv to present a Comedy Night fund-raiser at the hotel on Saturday, February 16, at 7:30 p.m. Tickets for the event – which will feature Project 2 Improv members John Thiede, Julie Morris, Brian Titus, Mike Ross, Julie Franklin, Stephanie Hillier, and Julian Gant – may be obtained by calling Rob McLachlan at 734-941-3829. One hundred percent of the ticket sales will go directly to the Boosters to support Romulus band programs.
- **Blood Drive** – The City of Romulus will conduct a Red Cross blood drive at the Senior Center (36525 Bibbins) on Wednesday, February 26, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. To schedule an appointment, please contact Julie Wojtylko (734-955-4501).
- **Silent Auction and Wine Tasting** – The Greater Romulus Chamber of Commerce will host its ninth annual Silent Auction and Wine Tasting at the Metropolitan Hotel (31500 Wick, Romulus) from 6:15 to 10 p.m. on Friday, March 14. Participants will also enjoy a menu of hors d'oeuvre (crab vol au vent with a sweet remoulade), salad (mesclun mix with roma tomato; served with a cherry or balsamic vinaigrette), entrée (petit filet of beef with a pine nut borsin demi and seared mahi mahi, Yukon gold mashed potatoes, and steamed asparagus with baby carrots), and dessert (forest berry mousse in a tulip cup). Tickets are \$50 each. Tax-deductible donations also welcome. For info, call the Chamber (734-893-0694).

To place information in our next issue's Community Calendar, mail it to "the little paper" at P.O. Box 74038, Romulus, MI 48174-0038; e-mail it to thelittlepaper@comcast.net; or FAX it to 734-992-2052.

"Sassy Seniors" News

For more information about these or other programs, contact the appropriate senior center or other organization.

Browns town

21311 Telegraph • 734-675-0920

Craft Classes

Medilodge of Taylor will sponsor free one-day craft classes at the Center on Friday, February 15, and Wednesday, March 19. Preregister at the front desk.

Computer Classes

Browns town senior citizens can learn computer and Internet basics in the following classes, which meet twice a week for three weeks.

- **Introduction to Computers** (computer basics for beginners or those who want to brush up their skills),
- **Introduction to Microsoft Word** (learn to create a document, including tips on setting and adjusting margins, changing fonts, editing text, and more; requires basic computer skills), and
- **Beginning Internet** (learn to navigate the Internet, use a search engine, and more; requires basic computer skills).

Cost for each class is \$40. To attend the next available session, put your name on the waiting list at the Recreation desk.

New Enrichment Classes Planned

In the coming months, the Browns town Senior Center will be offering several new enrichment classes in subjects as various as life journaling, poetry, art, and golf. Anyone interested in taking one (or more) of these spring/summer courses should sign the waiting list at the front desk.

Potluck & Games Night

The Senior Center's next Potluck & Games Night is set for Monday, January 28, at 5 p.m. Bring a dish to pass and a \$.50 donation, or come without a dish and make a \$3 donation. (The Center provides a meat dish and beverages.) Advance registration (at the Recreation desk) is required.

Shopping Trips

For a transportation cost of just \$1, Browns town seniors can ride the Center's bus to shop at the following destinations:

- Kroger (11 a.m. on Wednesday, January 30),
- Meijer (1 p.m. on Tuesday, February 5), and
- Target/Kohl's (11 a.m. on Tuesday, January 29).

Reserve a seat in person or by phone at least 24 hours in advance.

Upcoming Trips

Seniors are invited to take part in one or more of the following trips.

- **"Les Miserables" at the Canton Village Theater** (Tuesday, February 5; \$30 cost includes transportation, admission, and lunch at a Canton restaurant),

- **Motor City Casino** (Wednesday, February 6; \$15 cost includes transportation, \$20 Reward Play, and \$5 Food/Beverage Coupon),
- **Frankenmuth** (Wednesday, February 13; \$25 cost includes transportation, dinner, and pretzel-making, as well as an opportunity to shop),
- **"Bewitched"** (Thursday, February 14; \$60 cost includes transportation, admission, and lunch at Kalloway's),
- **"As You Like It" at the University of Michigan** (Sunday, February 17; \$78 cost includes transportation, admission, and a meal at the Gandy Dancer), and
- **"Mama Mia" at the Fisher Theater** (Wednesday, February 20; \$65 cost includes transportation, admission, and dinner at the Union Street Grille).

Call the Center for more information.

Regular Events

Regular programs offered by the Center include:

- euchre (Tuesdays, 12:30 p.m.),
- quilting (Wednesdays, 9 a.m.),
- blood-pressure checks (first Thursdays, noon),
- bowling (Fridays, 1 p.m., Flat Rock Lanes), and
- exercise (Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, 10 a.m.; \$.25 donation per class).

Romulus

36525 Bibbins • 734-955-4120

Celebrate "Fat Tuesday" with Paczkis!

The Romulus Senior Center will celebrate "Mardi Gras" ("Fat Tuesday") with its annual Paczki (pronounced *poonch-key*) Day on Tuesday, February 5, from 9 to 11 a.m. Although there is no charge to attend, please register in advance (by January 30) so that there will be enough goodies for everyone.

Tax Preparation Services

AARP will be at the Romulus Senior Center from 12:30 to 3 p.m. each Wednesday from January 30 through April 9 to provide tax preparation assistance to senior citizens (age 60 and older), low-income individuals, and persons with disabilities.

Tax services will also be offered at the Romulus Tower senior apartments building on Fridays (except Good Friday).

This service is available by appointment only. Call to make your reservation.

A list of items that should be brought to your appointment is available from the Center.

Free Hearing Test

A Michigan-licensed hearing aid specialist will be at the Romulus Senior Center at 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday, January 29, to conduct free hearing screenings to see if further testing is necessary. Most insurances are accepted.

Call to make an appointment.

Club #1 Meets

The senior social group known as Club #1 gets together at the Romulus Senior Center each Tuesday at 11 a.m. The next meeting – set for January 29 – will feature bingo and a bag lunch.

New faces are always welcome!

January Luncheon

This month's luncheon at the Center – set for 12:30 p.m. on Wednesday, January 30 – will feature a menu of meatballs, shepherd's pie, and steamed vegetables, plus a "surprise" for every person who attends.

Cost is \$3.50. Space is limited, so sign up soon!

Shopping Trips

Romulus seniors are invited to ride the Center's van, free of charge, for Monday morning (9:30 a.m.) shopping trips to:

- Kmart (January 28), and
- Meijer/Southland (February 4).

Reservations are accepted on a first-come/first-served basis.

Upcoming Trips

Call the Senior Center for more information about any of the following trips.

- **Casino Windsor** (Tuesday, January 29; \$10),
- **Windsor Racetrack** (Tuesday, February 12; \$10),
- **Casino Windsor** (Thursday, March 13; \$10),
- **Atlantic City** (March 16–20; \$450),
- **Cornwell (Turkeyville)** (Tuesday, April 15; \$75), and
- **Windsor Racetrack** (Wednesday, April 23; \$10).

Regular Programs

Free or low-cost weekly programs offered at the Romulus Senior Center include:

- bunco (Tuesdays, 1 p.m.),
- bingo (Wednesdays, 1 p.m.),
- fun night (Wednesdays, 5 p.m.),
- game day (Thursdays, 1 p.m.),
- quilting (Thursdays, 6 p.m.), and
- chair exercise (Fridays, 1 p.m.).

Hot Lunches

Don't forget that the Senior Center serves a hot lunch at 11:30 a.m. each weekday (except for holidays) for a suggested donation of only \$2.25.

Call by noon at least one business day in advance to make your reservation.

Taylor

6750 Troy • 313-291-7740

Murder Mystery

If you love whodunits, you won't want to miss "A Murder Mystery," performed by the Prime Time Players. The program will be offered on Friday, January 25, at 2 p.m. (senior matinee) and 7 p.m. (general public), and on Saturday, January 26, at 7 p.m. (general public).

Tickets are \$7 for adults; \$5 for senior citizens and children. For more information, contact the Center.

Sweetheart Dinner/Dance

The Ford Senior Center will host a Sweetheart Dinner/Dance from 1 to 5 p.m. on Friday, February 15. A catered meal and music by Solitaire will be featured.

Tickets (\$12) must be purchased by Friday, February 8.

Golf Registration

Registration for the **Wednesday Senior Mixed League** is open until February 4 for all regular golfers. Substitutes may register through April. Fees are \$15 for regulars, \$5 for substitutes.

Registration for the **Lakes Mixed League** and **Lakes Men's League** will continue through April. Fees are \$9 for each.

Tax Preparation Services

AARP will be at the Ford Senior Center each Thursday from February 7 through April 10 to perform free tax preparation services for low- and middle-income persons, with special attention to seniors age 60 and over and persons with disabilities. Most returns will be electronically filed.

This service is available by appointment only. Call to make your reservation.

Craft Day

On the first Thursday of each month, local seniors who have a craft project that they would like to finish can come to the Center and spend the day working on it in the company of like-minded friends – old and new!

Homestead Tax Preparation

Each Monday beginning January 28, volunteers at the Ford Senior Center will help senior citizens (age 65 and older) and persons with disabilities prepare their Homestead Property Tax returns. Most returns will be electronically filed.

This service is available by appointment only. *Do not call to make your reservation until you have received your 2007 tax form.*

Wayne County Chore Program

The Wayne County Chore Program provides lawn-mowing, leaf-raking, and snow-removal services, as well as minor home repairs and home-care installations (ramps, grab-bars, etc.). Individuals whose income falls within specified guidelines receive the service free of charge; those with incomes above the minimum are asked to make a small donation. (Amount requested will be determined by the services rendered and the recipient's income.)

For information on how to qualify, contact the Senior Alliance (734-722-2830) and ask for the Chore Services Coordinator.

Blood Pressure Checks

Stop in at the Center for a free blood pressure check between 8:30 and 11 a.m. on Thursday, January 31. □

BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT FORM

If you are a resident of Belleville, Brownstown, New Boston, Romulus, or Taylor, **the little paper** will be happy to print an announcement of your new addition (child or grandchild). If possible, please enclose a photograph of your new arrival. There is no charge. Just fill out the following information and mail to:

the little paper

P.O. Box 74038
Romulus, MI 48174-0038

Baby's Name _____
 Birthdate _____ Time _____
 Weight _____ Length _____
 Birthplace _____
 Parents _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Siblings _____

Maternal Grandparents _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Paternal Grandparents _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Name and phone number of person to contact (in case of questions): _____

Attach any additional information concerning the birth to this form.

ENGAGEMENT/WEDDING ANNOUNCEMENT FORM

If you, or your parents, are residents of Belleville, Brownstown, New Boston, Romulus, or Taylor, **the little paper** will be happy to print an announcement of your engagement or wedding. If possible, please enclose a photograph. There is no charge. Just fill out the following information and mail to:

the little paper

P.O. Box 74038
Romulus, MI 48174-0038

Bride's Name _____
 City _____ State _____
 Groom's Name _____
 City _____ State _____
 Bride's Parents _____
 City _____ State _____
 Groom's Parents _____
 City _____ State _____
 Bridesmaids _____
 Groomsmen _____
 Date of Engagement _____
 Date of Wedding _____
 Place _____
 City _____ State _____
 Reception _____
 City _____ State _____
 Name and phone number of person to contact (in case of questions): _____

Attach any additional information
concerning the wedding or engagement to this form.

The Stork Arrived!

Hunter Matthew Shafer

Don and Heather Shafer of Brownstown, Michigan, are proud to announce the birth of their son, Hunter Matthew Shafer.

Hunter was born in Oakwood Southshore Medical Center (Trenton, MI) at 3:16 a.m. on Wednesday, December 26, 2007, weighing in at 7 lbs., 6 oz., and measuring 20.5 in.

Especially excited about the new arrival was his big brother, A.J.

Also giving Hunter a warm welcome into the family were his paternal grandparents, Jim and Pam Shafer, and his maternal grandparents, Kip and Pam Bennett (all of Wyandotte, MI). □



Hunter Matthew Shafer

Obituaries

Paul D. Bostain

Paul D. Bostain of Romulus, Michigan, passed away on Sunday, January 20, 2008, at the age of 49.

The native of Detroit, Michigan, was born on Monday, May 26, 1958.

Paul was employed as a maintenance mechanic at St. Mary Mercy Hospital (Livonia, MI). A former member of the Belleville Moose Lodge, he was an avid sportsman who particularly enjoyed hunting, fishing, bowling, and golf.

Surviving Paul are his wife, Kandice K. (Butcher) Bostain; 2 sons, Private Christopher M. Bostain (Fort Lee, VA) and Steven S. Bostain (Romulus); his mother, Ruby

Elizabeth Bostain (Romulus); 2 brothers, Robert W. (Paula) Bostain (Romulus) and Bruce E. (Helen) Bostain (Westland, MI); and a sister, Connie L. Gervais (Belleville, MI).

Among those who predeceased him was his father, James R. Bostain, who passed away on June 18, 2004.

A funeral service was held on Thursday, January 24, at Calvary Baptist Church (Romulus), with Pastor Marvin Hawbaker and Robert W. Bostain sharing the role of officiant.

Interment was at Michigan Memorial Park (Flat Rock).

Hubert F. Staten

Hubert F. Staten of Romulus, Michigan, passed away on Monday, January 14, 2008, at the age of 75.

The native of Shaw, Mississippi, was born on Monday, October 10, 1932.

Hubert was a familiar figure to many in Romulus. The former assistant director of the City's Department of Public Works (1995-2001) was an active member of the community who gave his time to worthwhile projects like the Romulus Pumpkin Festival. He was an associate member of the American Legion, and also belonged to the Fraternal Order of Police and the Veterans of Foreign Wars. His interests included doing carpentry work, spending time in his yard, and taking an occasional trip to a casino.

Surviving Hubert are his wife, Emma

M. (Simmons) Staten; a daughter, Judy M. (Mitchell) Reno (Romulus); 4 sons, David C. (Sheryl) Staten (Manchester, MI), Roger D. (Peggy) Staten (Romulus), Gregory H. (Dawn) Staten (Monroe, MI), and Dennis F. (Lisa) Staten (Romulus); a stepdaughter, Linda (Larry) Berneburg (Garland, TX); 2 siblings, Cecil R. Staten (Richardson, TX) and Alice (Paul) Massey (Richardson); 11 grandchildren; and 10 great-grandchildren.

A funeral service was held on Friday, January 18, at Crane Funeral Home (Romulus), with Reverend Dale Kaufman (Monroe Free Methodist Church) officiating.

Burial was at the Romulus Memorial Cemetery.

Memorial contributions to any charitable organization would be greatly appreciated by the family. □

As part of our commitment to community service, **the little paper** publishes obituaries and personal announcements (births, engagements, weddings, etc.), free of charge, for the residents of Belleville, Brownstown Township, Huron Township, Romulus, and Taylor. For more information, call 734-941-1907.

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